



Learning Skills
ACADEMY



August 2020

Dear Families,

You have received our plan for the upcoming school year. We intend to start on August 27th, which will be a half day in order to allow time to orient our students to the safety procedures and their schedules.

We have been closely monitoring the situation in New England, around the country and the world. We have participated in meetings and guidance forums with the states of New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. There are no easy answers and these decisions impact all of our personal and professional lives; this is unavoidable. Given that we work with over thirty school districts across four states, we believe that it will be too risky for our community to come together on campus for an extended period of time. As you know, should there be one case of COVID-19 in our community, LSA would need to close.

Based on this, our current plan is to be on campus for 9 days, beginning on Thursday, August 27th, and concluding on Friday, September 11th. On-campus days will consist of a half-day on Thursday, August 27th with a 12:00pm dismissal, full days Monday-Thursday from August 31st to September 3rd, and Tuesday-Friday from September 8th to 11th. We will shift to full-time remote instruction on Monday, September 14th. Our goal will be to familiarize our students and staff with each other again—and to allow our new students to experience LSA in a meaningful way. So many faces, classes, friends--and such fun!

This year, we will be implementing the same master schedule when working on campus and working remotely. Unlike the way we taught remotely in the spring, we have determined that remote instruction will exactly mirror the master schedule. All students and staff will start with their first period class at 8:30 and continue through the day following their schedules. When we are on campus **and** when we shift to remote instruction, hour long classes will consist of 45 minutes of live instruction with a 10-15 minute break before the next class. Thirty minute classes will be 20-25 minutes of live instruction with a 5-10 minute break before the next class. It will be predictable for everyone—either on campus or remote. There will be minimal emphasis on independent assignments. Related services will still be 30 minutes in duration.

This is a more robust schedule than we followed in the Spring, but we believe that it is in your child's best interest to provide a more complete schedule of classes.

Additionally, LSA continues to partner with Adventurelore as we have since 1985. Alore staff will provide programs either at their headquarters in Danville or in other outdoor locations. Transportation will be provided by the districts either straight to Alore or to LSA. Students will be transported by LSA and Alore vehicles with distancing in place. Alore activities will occur on Fridays, with the Lower School participating twice/month, and the Upper School participating on



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the alternate Fridays twice/month. Safety will be foremost in our minds. We have planned to offer the program until Thanksgiving.

Staff will be on-campus for two days per week allowing them to teach from their rooms which we believe will continue to build on our sense of community. Although the students will be virtual, they will be able to see their familiar classrooms.

The admin team and I will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and may adjust the remote instruction accordingly. You should plan for remote instruction to continue until the Thanksgiving break. Should the environment miraculously clear, we will reopen as soon as possible.

We are confident that with the precautions we have in place and the shortened in person instruction time that we will remain safe and are acting in the best interest of our students, staff, and families.

The policy for all students, staff, and visitors is that while on campus, you will be required to wear a face mask at all times, except when taking mask breaks in between classes. Nonessential visitors are not allowed on campus.

Karen along with BJ, Dyann, Heidi, and Sean—the administrative team

Karen Elrod Staines, MSed
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